

What is claimed is:

1. A mask structure for use in a color CRT comprising:  
a color-separating mask made of a thin metal plate having a row of slits formed therein with a predetermined pitch, the color-separating mask having a first hole-bearing area including all of the slits of the row except two outermost slits of the row and two second hole-bearing areas each of which includes one of the outermost slits; and  
a mask frame holding the color-separating mask while applying tension perpendicular to a direction in which the slits are arranged to the color-separating mask;  
wherein the thin metal plate has first projections formed therein for each of the outermost slits, the first projections protruding to an opening of corresponding one of the outermost slits, and  
wherein an opening area of the outermost slits of the second hole bearing areas is smaller than an opening area of the slits of the first hole bearing area.
2. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 1, in which the opening area of the outermost slits of the second hole-bearing areas is smaller than 70 % of the opening area of the slits of the first hole-bearing area.
3. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 1, in which the thin metal plate has second projections formed therein for each of the slits of the first hole-bearing area, the second projections protruding to an opening of corresponding one of the slits of the first hole-bearing area.
4. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 1, in which the first projections are formed in pairs of projections

on opposite sides of the opening of the outermost slit of the second hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the outermost slit.

5. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 3, in which the first projections are formed in pairs of projections on opposite sides of the opening of the outermost slit of the second hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the outermost slit, and the second projections are formed in pairs of projections on opposite sides of the opening of the slit of the first hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the slit of the first hole-bearing area.

6. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 1, in which the first projections are formed on only one of opposite sides of the opening of the outermost slit of the second hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the outermost slit of the second hole-bearing area.

7. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 3, in which the first projections are formed on only one of opposite sides of the opening of the outermost slit of the second hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the outermost slit, and the second projections are formed on only one of opposite sides of the opening of the slit of the first hole-bearing area with a predetermined pitch in a direction of length of the slit of the first hole-bearing area.

8. A mask structure for use in a color CRT according to claim 3, in which the second projections are formed on opposite sides of the opening of the slit of the first hole-bearing area in a staggered format with a predetermined pitch in a direction of

length of the slit of the first hole-bearing area.

9. A color CRT including the mask structure as described in any one of claims 1 to 8.